**1. Proposed Amendments to the Claims**

1 -8. (canceled)

9 - 24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A method for making single-phase mixed-metal metal oxide particles with an average diameter of less than about 1 micron, comprising:

preparing a solution ~~selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution~~ comprising Cu and In and/or Ga as ~~two or more~~ dissolved metals and/or ~~two or more~~ metal-containing compounds ~~comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB~~;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets in an oxidizing atmosphere to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form ~~mixed-metal~~ single-phase copper indium oxide, copper gallium oxide or copper indium gallium oxide particles,

~~wherein said mixed-metal particles are a single-phase metal oxide~~.

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and Ga.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~28~~ 25, wherein said atmosphere comprises oxygen.

30. (currently amended) A method for making mixed-metal particles with an average diameter of less than about 1 micron useful for fabricating photovoltaic devices, comprising:

preparing a solution ~~selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution~~ comprising Cu and In and/or Ga as ~~two or more~~ dissolved metals and/or ~~two or more~~ as metal-containing compounds ~~comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, or and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB~~;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets in a reducing atmosphere to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise Cu in a metallic ~~a non-oxide~~ phase and In and/or Ga in an oxide phase.

31 - 32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-

metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase.

34. (canceled)

35. (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the droplets are heated at between about 350 and about 1050°C in a reducing atmosphere ~~particles comprise Cu, In and Ga~~.

36. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30, wherein the droplets are heated at about 500°C in a reducing atmosphere.

37. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30 ~~36~~, wherein the atmosphere comprises about 10 volume percent hydrogen.

38. (currently amended) A method for making multi-phase mixed-metal oxide particles with an average diameter of less than about 1 micron, comprising:

preparing a solution ~~selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution~~ comprising Cu and In and/or Ga as ~~two or more~~ dissolved metals and/or ~~two or more~~ metal-containing compounds ~~comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB~~;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets in a substantially inert atmosphere or in a reducing atmosphere to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise multiple metal oxide phases.

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase

40 - 42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~42~~ 38, wherein said atmosphere comprises nitrogen.

44 - 50. (canceled)